Fire Accident at the All-India Industrial and Fine Arts Exhibition in Cubbon Park, Bangalore.

Q.—20. **Sri H. C. LINGA REDDY** (Kolar District—General).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether they are aware of the fire accident that overtook the All-India Industrial and Fine Arts Exhibition arranged in the Cubbon Park, Bangalore ;

(*b*) the reasons for the fire ;

(*c*) the extent of loss suffered by the stall holders and the management ;

(*d*) the relief given by the Government to the sufferers ;

(*e*) the steps they would take to prevent recurrence of such fire accidents ?

A.—**The Hon'ble Sri T. MARIAPPA** (Home Minister).—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) Government have constituted a Committee of Enquiry, on 12th May 1951, under the Chairmanship of *Rajadharmaprasakta* Sri T. Singarave'u Mudaliar, Retired Judge of the High Court of Mysore, to examine and report on—

(i) the causes of the outbreak and the rapid spread of the fire in the said Exhibition premises on 29th April 1951 and the extent of damage caused by it;

(ii) the precautionary measures undertaken against such eventualities ; and

(iii) the manner in which such exhibitions have to be organised in future.

The report of the Committee is awaited.

(*d*) Nil.

(*e*) The question will be examined after receiving the recommendations of the Committee in the matter.

Sri H. C. LINGA REDDY.—Have the Police investigated into the fire accident ?

***The Hon'ble Sri T. MARIAPPA.**—They have held an enquiry.

Sri H. C. LINGA REDDY.—What is the opinion of the Police ?

The Hon'ble Sri T. MARIAPPA.—That is confidential. It will be made available to the Committee.

Sri H. C. LINGA REDDY.—Whenever fire accidents occur, the Government give some relief, is it not ?

The Hon'ble Sri T. MARIAPPA.—That matter has not been decided as yet. The whole matter will perhaps be considered after the receipt of the report.

Sri H. C. LINGA REDDY.—Are the Government aware that a number of poor stall holders have suffered as a result of the fire accident ?

The Hon'ble Sri T. MARIAPPA.—The Government are fully aware of the loss sustained by both well-to-do and poor stall-holders.

Sri H. C. LINGA REDDY.—Will the poor stall-holders be helped by the Government substantially ?

The Hon'ble Sri T. MARIAPPA.—The matter has to be very carefully examined.

Sri H. C. LINGA REDDY.—Will the Government take the necessary precautions to avoid recurrence of such accidents ?

The Hon'ble Sri T. MARIAPPA.—In fact, that is one of the terms of reference.

Sri M. GOVINDA REDDY (Chitaldrug District—General).—Has it been discovered in the Police enquiry that the fire accident was due to sabotage ?

The Hon'ble Sri T. MARIAPPA.—I am not prepared to disclose anything which has come out in the Police enquiry.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Short Notice Question No. 23.

Constituting the Public Service Commission.

Q.—23. **Sri H. C. LINGA REDDY** (Kolar District—General).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the India Government have recently sent